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A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

SUNDAY  
EDITION.

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NO. 1,911.—[REGISTERED AT THE  
G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.]

LONDON, SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1918.

THREE HALFPENCE

## THE GERMAN PLOT IN IRELAND UNMASKED.

### SINN FEIN ARMY OF 500,000.

Rising to coincide with German Western Offensive.

TREASON PLOT WITH HUNS REVEALED.  
ARMS FOR REBELS SHIPPED ON U-BOATS  
AT CUXHAVEN.

SCHEME FAILS THROUGH GERMAN INABILITY TO SEND TROOPS

Events which led up to the arrest of the leaders of the Sinn Fein movement in Ireland are now officially disclosed.

It is clear that a rising on an ambitious scale was planned, for which the Germans undertook to find arms, Valera was to head a rebel army of half a million men.

The rising was timed to follow a successful German offensive in the West, and was to take place when Great Britain would be presumably stripped of troops. Arms were to be landed from submarines and munitions were actually shipped at Cuxhaven, but never reached their destination.

Submarine bases were to be established in Ireland to threaten the shipping of all nations. Fortunately the British authorities got wind of the plot, which was frustrated and the Sinn Fein leaders arrested.

#### PLOTS WITH THE HUNS.

##### Events Which Led Up to the Sinn Fein Arrests.

The revolutionary movement in Ireland, which culminated in the arrest of a considerable number of prisoners last week, consists of two closely-related series of activities:

(a) The attempts of the German Government to foment rebellion in Ireland; and

(b) The preparations made in Ireland to carry these attempts into effect.

The story of the active connection between the leaders of the Sinn Fein movement and the German Government, which culminated in the arrest that the schedule, viz., on Easter Monday, April 24, but as the world was a world of German support had miscarried and it ended in complete failure. The Report of the Royal Commission on the rebellion in Ireland stated:—

It is now a matter of common notoriety that the Irish leaders have been in communication with the German Government and were for a long time known to be supplied with money through Irish-American societies. This was so stated in a speech by Mr. John McNeill on Nov. 3, 1917, in the House of Commons, long before the outbreak that some of the money came from German sources.

The evidence on this subject in the possession of the British Government provides the clearest proof of these suspicions.

##### Casement's Request.

The story begins as early in the war as Nov. 6, 1914, when Herr Zimmermann, then Minister of the German Foreign Office, sent through Count Bernstorff a message from Casement asking that a messenger, if possible a native-born American, be sent to Ireland with the word that everything was favourable. He was to carry no letter for fear of arrest. Casement also asked that an Irish priest should be sent to Germany with the assistance of the German Legation in Norway, to work in prison camps and corrupt Irish prisoners of war. This was a case of the John T. Nichols, an American citizen of Irish birth. He reached Germany safely, and we find him in January 1915, transmitting messages to America. According to a report of Captain Von Papen, dated Dec. 5, 1914, the verbal assurances sent in response to Casement's request had produced an excellent impression in Ireland. In the beginning of 1916 the plot ripened. On Feb. 10 Count Bernstorff sent to his covering agents in Rotterdam a despatch signed with the name of Sise, one of his principal American agents. This despatch included an extract from a report of John Dwyer, Head of the Clan-na-Gael, to the effect that action in Ireland could not be postponed much longer since he feared the arrest of the leaders. It had been decided, he said, to begin action on Easter Saturday, and he urged that the arms and munitions must be in Ireland by that date.

##### Date of the Rising Fixed.

On the same month Count Bernstorff, following his usual practice, surreptitiously attached to a message to Berlin passed by the American Government a note fixing Easter Saturday for the rising and urging the despatch of munitions in time. On March 4 Von Jagow replied that the arms would be landed in Tralee Bay, and added that the needs of the rebels should be met. On March 24 Bernstorff replied that the Irish agreed, and that full details were being sent to Ireland by messenger.

##### Combined Attack.

Next day Bernstorff telegraphed a code to be used between the Germans and the rebels while the arms were to be brought safely into Dublin, and go as far as the Pigeon House without encountering nets. On March 25 Von Jagow replied that a special code word would be used to give every night as an introduction to the German Wireless Press service. In a message from Bernstorff to Berlin the Germans

ernment and the leaders of the Sinn Fein party was temporarily broken, though there is no reason to believe that the messenger service devised by Dwyer between the rebels and Ireland was affected. A clue to the new line of communication was subsequently obtained and has been actively followed up. The effect of this new line in Ireland is visible in the speeches of the Sinn Fein leaders during this period. For example, De Valera, addressing the Convention of Irish Volunteers on Oct. 27, 1917, said that proper organisation and recruiting they could have 500,000 fighting volunteers in Ireland. This would be added to a big army built up without the opportunity and the means of fighting, it could only be used as a menace. There had already been too much bloodshed without success, and he would never advocate another rebellion without hopeful chances of success. They could see no hope of that in the near future, except through a German invasion of Eng and, the landing of troops and munitions in Ireland. They should be prepared to do nothing more than that.

On another occasion, in January this year, De Valera said so long as Germany is the enemy of England and England the enemy of Ireland, so long will Ireland be the friend of Germany.

##### German Plan to Land Arms.

For some considerable time it was difficult to obtain accurate information as to the German plan. For

example, about April 1918, it was

definitely ascertained that the plan

for landing arms in Ireland was ripe

for execution, and that the Germans

only awaited definite information

from Ireland as to the time, place

and date. The British authorities

were able to warn the Irish Command

regarding the probable landing of an

agent from Germany from a subma-

rine. This agent actually landed on April 19 and was captured.

The now rising depended largely

upon the landing of munitions from

submarines, and there is evidence to

show that it was planned to follow

a successful German offensive in the

West and to take place at a time

when Great Britain would be pre-

sumably stripped of troops.

##### De Valera's Army.

According to documents found on

his person, De Valera had worked out

in great detail the constitution of his

rebel army, and hoped to be able to

raise half a million trained men.

It is evident that German plans

were actually shewn on sub-

marines at Cuxhaven at the begin-

ning of May, and that for some time

German submarines had been busy off

the west coast of Ireland on other

errands than the destruction of Allied

shipping. It will thus be seen that

negotiations between the executive of

the Sinn Fein organisation and Ger-

many have been virtually continuous

ever since the outbreak of the war.

Irish Americans was the intermedi-

ary for most of the discussions, but

since America's entrance into the war

and that of no summary, as a full state-

ment of the facts and documents in

possession of the German Government

would disclose the names of persons who

stood by the Government and also who

stood by the Sinn Fein leaders, it is

not possible to give a full account of

the plot.

##### SAD AND UNPLEASANT.

##### Premier on the Conspiracy.

Mr. Lloyd George, speaking at a

luncheon at the City Chambers, Edin-

burgh, said Irish regiments have

fought valiantly, and Irishmen in

this country and in the American

Dominions have taken equal share

with other races in the burden of

sacrifice. The bulk of the young men

of Ireland, however, have held

back, many of them, sons of great

influence amongst their countrymen,

had entered into a conspiracy with

the military autocracy which is

trampling on the liberties of small

nations to stab Britain in the back,

whilst she was struggling to deliver

the enslaved nationalities. The whole

story is sad and unpleasant, and

we have seen the evidence. Much of

it cannot be published without end-

angering public safety. Enough can

be published to demonstrate that the

conspirators were ready at a moment

of great critical and dangerous for

Britain and the Allies. The Irish

Nationalist leaders had nothing to

do with it. It is a matter of common

knowledge that the Germans

are to blame for this.

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# GIGARETTE PAPERS

FOR AFTER-DINNER SMOKING  
By CHARLES LOWE

Lord Protector of Ireland.

Viscount French, while as yet only plain Sir John, once saved the situation at Ypres—from which accordingly he derived his peerage title—thus preventing the Huns from attacking the Channel ports. The world now looks as if he will equally go to perform a corresponding service at Dublin, this again debarring the Germans from working their will on the Irish people. His proclamation to them, in his new capacity as "Lord Protector" of his native country, so to speak—for though born in England (Kent), he is of Hibernian extraction—was above the average of such pronouncements, being a singular blend of mildness, frankness and *severe* *fairness*—and might be characterized as far the most important document issued from the Castle for many a long day. If any man better than another knows the Germans and their ways it is Lord French, who must be well aware that to paralyse their intrigues in Ireland will be to add several hundreds of thousands of first-rate fighting men to those not only by reason of the Irish recruits who may now be expected to join the colours by conversion more than by compulsion, but also from release of the very large British forces hitherto locked up in the island instead of being sent to France and Flanders.

## Bolo-Bacillus.

There is no country with which Germany is at war—and her declared enemies now number 19 States, apart from nine others which have broken off relations with her—in which she has not carried on a propaganda which is quite new in warfare. As she was the first to introduce poison gas and poisoned wells, so she has now extended her activities to the use of the bacillus of cholera in civilian warfare, thereby rendering it more savage than ever before, so she also broke fresh belligerent ground in waging and winning over the minds, as well as wasting the bodies, of her enemies, and inoculating those minds with what might be called the Bolo bacillus of choleric corruption. The principle underlying these practices are well set forth in a nutshell found in the official German "Book" issued by authority of the General Staff, which among other things declares: "Bribery of the enemy's subjects with the object of obtaining military advantages, acceptance of offers of treachery, reception of deserters, utilisation of the discontented elements in the population, support of pretenders, and the like, are permissible, indeed, international law is in no way opposed to the exploitation of the enemy by third parties (assassination, incendiary, robbery, and the like) to the prejudice of the enemy." That the Germans have applied these nefarious principles to the malcontent elements of the Irish people has been repeatedly proved up to the hilt.

## Irish Invasion.

It is a popular error to suppose that, in thus playing upon the passions of the disaffected elements of the Irish people, it is the primary aim of the Germans to prepare their way for an invasion of Ireland, any more than that they are intriguers in India and in the Eastern Empire of our Eastern Empire. In both cases their object simply is to stir up such insurrectionary trouble as would add to our internal difficulties and prevent us from sending abroad troops who would thus be required to suppress sedition at home. Their air-raid and threats of invasion have a similar effect.

Some of their foremost military writers smile in their sleeves when we talk of the invasion of Ireland as a serious German aim. I happen to possess a copy of a little volume published some 14 years ago in London, entitled "The Principles of Home Defence," by "Prompustus" of the *Irish Times*, who has been pronounced by a high authority to be perhaps the best on the subject. And the joke is that, though published in English, it was written by a Prussian officer long resident in our midst—though he is now a prisoner of war in Russia, and this is what he said about Ireland: "Even if Ireland should entirely side with the invader, he would be beaten." It has been repeatedly stated that surprise is the essence of an invasion. By landing in Ireland, however, the invader deprives himself of that most essential element of success. He has succeeded in getting to Ireland, and from Ireland he must organise a new expedition to England, but then, surprise, difficulties, and the time required for the second expedition the invader makes a present to the British Army which will be gratefully accepted. Consequently, the idea that the invader could use Ireland as a base for operations against England must be dismissed as a fantastical theory.

## MOURNING TURNED TO JOY.

Mrs. Godfrey, of West Faling, wife of 2d Lt. W. Godfrey, R.F.A., has received a postcard from her husband in which he says: "I am still recovering from my wounds and have plenty of food, and a memorial service was held yesterday in my honour." Ealing. The officers' kitbag was received from France on the same day as the postcard from Germany arrived. Mrs. Franco, of Leigh, Lancashire, has received similar news. Hon. Mrs. G. G. Smith, of S. France, a machine gunner previously reported sick, sent a postcard stating that he is in a German camp at Lingay. In a recent issue of *Illustrated War News* it had been drawn and a memorial service held at the parish church, France won in the D.C.M. in the *Loos* battle.

## THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN.

(Answers on Page 7.)

Francis will celebrate Empire Day in many large towns with fêtes and lectures on British effort.

Canon Sutton, of Bridgwater, Cockerham, has given up his dining-room as a cheese-ripening store.

## MUSIC IN THE DRAMA

By the death of Mr. W. L. Abingdon is removed one of the most brilliant and most finished dramatic "heavy men." He was the most polished of stage veterans, and his art conjures up some famous leads of the palmy days of the Adelphi and Drury Lane theatres. His son, James Ferdinand Herman Vezin, and William Terriss, the latter a player on one of the stages, and other scenes with Abingdon in "The Harbou Lights," in which the vindictive nature of the plot and the play was dimly portrayed by W. L. A. He also appeared in "The Harbour Lights," and "The Devil's Day," and in English and French. He died at his villa in the English Garden in "Sherlock Holmes," with William Gillette in 1902. A year later he went to America and did not return to England. In private life he was a real good fellow and very fond of a good "joke." They knew what backaches mean now. Their backs themselves might have spared them if they had been more warning—ofttimes the only warning—the kidneys were degenerating; and here was a man who had a backache. Don't shut your eyes to warning. Don't be content to alleviate only the pain or treat mere outward symptoms. To the cause of the trouble is the kidney. Ask your doctor. One of the one remedy which is known to cure the cause. Ask your chemist for "Warren's Salve Cure," and write to Warren's, 10, Newgate-street, London, E.C. For the valuable book they will send free to every reader of this paper on request.

"ONLY A BACKACHE!"

"IT'S only a backache. Just a little stiff when you get up. Not a little cold feeling in my back when I wake in the morning. It will pass off in time. It's only a little cold on my kidneys." You know what there are more women readers of this paper will read this—the same line you will shudder at the morrow. They mean to tell you, perhaps, that the words may seem to you, perhaps, but ask anyone who has any of the six diseases that result from kidney derangements, as the aeronauts, a surgeon or someone who has the worst of all kidney afflictions, "Bright's Disease." And then they will remember the time when you used to say, "It will pass off." They know what backaches mean now. Their backs themselves might have spared them if they had been more warning—ofttimes the only warning—the kidneys were degenerating; and here was a man who had a backache. Don't shut your eyes to warning. Don't be content to alleviate only the pain or treat mere outward symptoms. To the cause of the trouble is the kidney. Ask your doctor. One of the one remedy which is known to cure the cause. Ask your chemist for "Warren's Salve Cure," and write to Warren's, 10, Newgate-street, London, E.C. For the valuable book they will send free to every reader of this paper on request.

I fear that the "plebs" concert at

## Navy Notes

By "THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN."

### Naval Progress.

Things move apace in these stirring days, and old workers in the uplift of the war must not be made to feel that they must rub their eyes and wonder whether they are dreaming when they learn of the progress made. The question is, are we being gravely put forward by the leaders of the lower deck societies in the interests of the members? It seems not long since an human memories go, when the action of a young gunner who single-handed, and with a journal which was published monthly to ventilate the disabilities and claims of the officers, was considered, as indeed it was, an act of extreme audacity, and had some of the old-fashioned officers who then governed the service, and the young officer would promptly have been squashed by sentence of court-martial. Saner counsels prevailed, the Naval Warant Officer, now known as the Milford-in-Strand, W.W., marked "Inquiry Bureau."

As, owing to limitation of space, it is impossible to publish the answers in our columns, a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed with each query, which will then be answered direct by post.

## "THE PEOPLE" PENSIONS BUREAU.

"The People" gives free expert advice on all matters affecting the discharged soldier and his dependents, such as:—Discharge and Gratuity Allowances.

Pay. Medals & Decorations.

State—Alternative pension 35s. BRONCHO-BRIGADE of 545 secured. DUMBARTON—Constitution of the Gun. W.W. by Association, which has its own special pensions and employment branches, and is in direct touch with big employers of labour, the Admiralty, War Office, and Ministry, etc. Readers may therefore rely on getting the best expert advice and assistance.

All queries must be accompanied by a stamp and cut from page and addressed to: "THE PEOPLE," Milford-in-Strand, W.W., marked "Inquiry Bureau."

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### PENSION POINTS.

Acting rank is not a pensionable block to men in the rank of pensioner. The disablement pension, however, is based according to acting rank if the soldier concerned held such paid rank at the time he was wounded, in accordance with his duty in consequence of disablement.

In the same way, the pension granted to the widow of a soldier who held paid acting rank at the time of his disablement, and was in direct duty on account of his permanent disability, will be based on the same principle.

A disabled pension may be reviewed, if owing to an error in interpretation or in fact, it has been granted to a disabled man in excess of the amount appropriate to the degree of his disablement, or if it has been granted to a pensioner.

The same principle applies. As an illustration, take the subject of navigation, which a century ago was only studied and practised by the warrant officers, and not by the rank and file and the gunners. The latter were officially instructed in this subject until 1756, and then for their own reasons the Admiralty stopped the system. Shortly afterwards, the question of the maintenance of these officers was raised in the House of Commons, officially objected to the ground of their lack of education, and the Admiralty refused to grant a pension. Immediately a considerable number commenced to qualify in navigation by passing Board of Trade examinations, science and art examinations, etc., and a pension was granted to a Comptroller-in-Chief, who, as he was afterwards to queer Napoleon's pitch at Waterloo by failing to find and fight old Blucher on his retreat from Ligny to Valmy, was also doomed to a pension. The principle of the "bullock" is well known to the wheel of such invasion as Banting Bay. The world should such a formidable task as that of Brittany, but as a matter of fact the French squadron did not run the slightest danger from our "bulldogs" of the brine, owing to the "fox of war," then prevailing, though such a wireless aeroplane as the "Fame" of the French had been able to elude our own war-vessels cruising off the coast of Brittany, but as a matter of fact the French squadron did not run the slightest danger from our "bulldogs" of the brine, owing to the "fox of war," then prevailing, though such a wireless aeroplane as the "Fame" of the French had been able to elude our own war-vessels cruising off the coast of Brittany, but as a matter of fact the French squadron did not run the slightest danger from our "bulldogs" of the brine, owing to the "fox of war," then prevailing, though such a wireless aeroplane as the "Fame" of the French had been able to elude our own war-vessels cruising off the coast of Brittany, but as a matter of fact the French squadron did not 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## GREAT AERIAL BATTLE IN FULL SWING: HUNS' LATEST INFAMY

## BIGGEST ATTACK ON LONDON.

SEVEN GOTHAS BROUGHT DOWN BY OUR DEFENDERS.

44 PEOPLE KILLED, 179 INJURED.

The past week has been marked by the greatest activity in the air. In addition to the usual fighting and raiding on the battlefield the Allies have made many effective raids in Germany.

The Germans on Sunday night carried out their biggest raid so far on London, losing at least seven machines, thanks to our improved defences. 44 people were killed and 179 injured in this

The Huns have also made several raids on Paris and have added another to their long list of infamies by bombing British hospitals in France, causing hundreds of casualties among the patients and staff.

## THE RAID ON LONDON.

## SEVEN GOTHAS BROUGHT DOWN.

It is officially stated that a considerable number of Gotha aeroplanes appear to have taken part in this night's raid. It is not possible to give an exact figure, but probably between 20 and 30 machines participated.

A group of machines came in up the Thames estuary about 10 p.m. and skirted the south bank of the river, then turned inland being engaged by the anti-aircraft

defences. One of these machines was shot down in the air, and the spectators quickly saw the beginning of a fight between one of these—directed, by the officer commanding an aerodrome close by—and a Gotha. After some manoeuvring, the former got an opening and fired at the Gotha, which came crashing earth, a burst of smoke and fire. The second Gotha brought down was attacked by a R.A.F. officer. Although the planes were intact, the engines were smashed and useless. During another sharp combat on Sunday evening, a Gotha was compelled to drop its load of bombs in an open field in order to escape from its pursuer.

## INQUEST STORIES.

## HUNS' LITTLE VICTIM.

An inquest was held in Essex on Leo Grogan, a boy of 7, who was killed in a Gotha raid. It was stated that during the heavy fire he went underneath a table. His father stood in the passage, his mother and 2 brothers in a room. A bomb demolished 4 houses, and made a hole 18 feet deep. The little boy was afterwards found among the wreckage. Another inquest was held on Mr. and Mrs. White, who lived about 3 miles from where an aeroplane was brought down. The bomb exploded in an ambulance corps, and as a rule, until they received their call, they stayed in their parlour with their favourite dog. A bomb dropped on their house and destroyed it. The police found the dog badly mutilated, and 3 hours later Mr. and Mrs. White were found in the garden, lying dead, side by side. They had been suffocated.

There was a formation of Gothas flying at a comparatively low altitude, and a number of British machines above. Our own men appeared to be sitting on their opponents, awaiting the opportunity to administer the final blow. They had not long to wait. The feeling was one of breathless excitement as the warlike machines descended lower and lower. There was no escape from the onrushing. Then came the great moment. On 3 distinct occasions machine guns tapped out, and a few minutes later a mighty cheer went up. The Gotha burst into flames, and its own light could be seen slowly descending in spirals. When the fire mass was nearly reached the ground portion fell away, and the bulk of the fabric collapsed, a mass of flames. The light given out by the destroyed raider as it whirled through the air could be seen for miles around. The gunfire decreased slightly in volume while the British planes challenged the remaining Gothas. In the neighbourhood of this stirring conflict a number of bombs

## THE CASUALTIES.

## 44 KILLED, 179 INJURED.

The following casualties in Sunday night's raid are reported:—

London Metropolitan Police district and City:—

Killed: Men 17, women 14, children 6—total, 37.

Injured: Men 83, women 49, children 23—total, 155.

Provines—Killed, nil. Injured: Men 2, women 3, child total, 6. The later official report gives the total casualties as 44 killed, 179 injured.

## RAID INCIDENTS.

A lad of 9 was discovered, very little hurt, buried in timber and masonry. He cried pitifully when got out, and asked for his father and mother. He was soothed by kind-hearted rescuers, who refused to let him go even from telling him that both had been killed.

**Our Air Defences.**  
Seven raiders brought down in an attempt on London constitutes an accurate and most satisfactory evidence of the growing strength of our air defences. Two has been the largest number destroyed hitherto.

**Ametropian.**  
A metropolitan hospital suffered as the result of 1 of the bombs. A large number of windows were smashed by the concussion of the explosion, which was not serious, and no personal casualties were reported.

**Fire at Factory.**

One which is believed to have been caused by an incendiary bomb occurred in a factory and could be seen from many parts of the metropolis, and was witnessed by drivers in the vicinity. One fell in the centre of the road, and another on some model dwellings, to which considerable damage was done.

**United We Stand.**

There was much humour as well as a good deal of pathos about the Royal Guardsman who had been twirled in the air. You see, these houses are built to keep each other up, and when one went a lot had to follow."

**The Neural Grip.**

There was much humour as well as a good deal of pathos about the Royal Guardsman who had been twirled in the air. You see, these houses are built to keep each other up, and when one went a lot had to follow."

**Hospital Nurses.**

Some of the bombs fell squarely on hospital occupied by the other officers of the quarters of the hospital staffs.

The nurses, as might be expected, worked with the greatest heroism, and although bomb-proof shelves had been provided for them, not one left her post.

They remained in the wards, passing from bed to bed, talking with the men and encouraging them, and the soldiers themselves cannot speak too highly of their cheerful courage and devotion. One ward that suffered greatly was devoted to serious cases of fracture. One ward which, by sheer sheerly helping their broken limbs were slung on wooden frames and the slightest jar or movement caused intense pain. The building rocked with each explosion, and then their agony was beyond description. One bomb shattered a portion of the hut and some of the men were killed outright, while others were wounded a second time.

**A Cynical Excuse.**

One German aeroplane, containing the commander of the expedition, was brought down by gun fire near the hospital. The nurses, as might be expected, worked with the greatest heroism, and although bomb-proof shelves had been provided for them, not one left her post.

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**A Lucky Escape.**

Three bombs were dropped in London, the district where there is a large German population, but though a considerable number of people were more or less seriously injured and the damage to property was great, I do not know of a woman—reported.

This was due to the fact that only 1 building was directly struck this being a works, which, by reason of the inflammable nature of its contents, was soon ablaze.

**Take Cover.**

In one place the whole of the occupants of a shop, 6 men, were killed, and another 10 were injured. One old man, his wife, and his son, who was 12 years old, were killed while standing in the doorway, and a man was killed by flying glass.

The lesson of the raid again seems to be that the safest place to be in is inside a house, and the death and many of the cases of injuries occurred amongst people who were standing at doorways or in the streets.

**THE BIGGEST RAID.**

**BERLIN'S STORY OF ITS RESULT.**

A semi-official message from Berlin reports that strong German air squadrons attacked London on Sunday night.

According to the report the aeroplanes engaged and the number of bombs dropped this was the greatest attack yet executed. It was observed that the bombs dropped had good results in the City between the Admiralty and the West India Docks. Four fires broke out in the City. Other aeroplanes attacked Dover, Chelmsford, Chatham, and Southend with the same good results.

**CROCODILE TEARS.**

A German official communiqué says that the enemy aerial attacks against Belgian territory, which have increased in frequency of late, have inflicted heavy damage and losses on the Belgian population. No military damage has been caused.

Admiralty—The remaining 6 men, who speedily made out contracts, in the neighbourhood of this

stirring conflict a number of bombs

were dropped within an area of about 2 miles.

**Captured Gotha.**

In one coastal district a swarm of British machines was soon in the air, and the spectators quickly saw the beginning of a fight between one of these—directed, by the officer commanding an aerodrome close by—and a Gotha. After some manoeuvring, the former got an opening and fired at the Gotha, which came crashing earth, a burst of smoke and fire. The second Gotha brought down was attacked by a R.A.F. officer.

Although the planes were intact, the engines were smashed and useless. During another sharp combat on Sunday evening, a Gotha was compelled to drop its load of bombs in an open field in order to escape from its pursuer.

**ROYAL VISIT OF SYMPATHY.**

The King and Queen visited some of the affected districts and sympathised with the sufferers. At one place, a woman who had been severely damaged in the raid, was brought to the Queen, who was deeply moved by her condition.

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## SERVANT'S SAD DEATH.

## PATHETIC LETTER TO GUNNER LOVER.

"Larry Lynn" cannot correspond by post with readers, but can answer through the correspondence columns of "The People" any questions concerning racing or general sport.

**THE RACING QUESTION.**  
SPORT ONCE AGAIN RESTRICTED TO NEWMARKET.

Once more the Government or rather the War Cabinet has come into question with on the racing question. The last time question with the result that racing is to be confined to Newmarket, the outside fixtures which have been arranged all being abandoned. The meetings which have been abandoned have been knocked on the head to comprise 20 afternoon racing, and the racing which is allowed to remain at Newmarket covers 23 days racing.

There is no doubt that the Government's partisans concerned have been influenced by the many questions which have been asked by the faddist section in the House in reference to the railway traffic in connection with racing. The faddists, with their racing supporters who turned up in their tens of thousands at Manchester on Friday had something very strong to say on this restriction of racing to Newmarket. They very properly said that racing must remain to the head-quarters of the Jockey Club but cannot do so to other venues. The Government is clearly asking for trouble for the working-class racing has been tied down with waiting orders.

A big sports carnival on the lines of that held at Stamford Bridge was on the Leeds City Football ground on Monday evening. The racing was won by the Lancasters, the Princely Guards being second. The faddists' contingent can claim a victory, but the last word on the matter has not yet been spoken. The Racing Emergency Committee is still in existence. Last year its fighting slogan resulted in a ban on racing being removed. Public opinion, especially in the north, was brought to bear on the matter. The Government then found they had blundered in pandering to the faddists.

So far racing trains on the Brighton line are concerned, I hear on what can be regarded as reliable authority, that racing trains which convey passengers from Newmarket and London to the racecourse are to be run in the early morning hours and convey the same people back to their homes at night. If not engaged in racing trains they would be started late in the evening, up to the racecourse, and return after portions of the day. Railway officials themselves are not averse to racing traffic at the present time. In fact, a Government official in the House of Commons recently admitted that the express services to Newmarket did not interfere with engine or rolling-stock required for other purposes.

## Jockey Club's Vacillation.

The vacillation of both the Government and the Jockey Club is most lamentable. No wonder the public has little confidence in either. There is little backbone in the Government, and still less in the body which is supposed to govern racing. When the report of the Jockey Club meeting is published in full we may have further and much-needed explanation of the present situation. At present the Jockey Club has no good reason for cutting down the fixtures. They cannot believe that what is said for the outside meetings is not also said for Newmarket.

Some months ago, Mr. Lloyd George gave expression to the opinion, and that of the Government, that horse racing was of national importance. Has that opinion undergone a change. Furthermore, it is reported that the Jockey Club informed that nothing financial to the interests of breeders should be undertaken until that body had been afforded the opportunity of placing its views before him. It would be interesting to know if the Jockey Club has been consulted at all. This racing question has never been treated honestly. Whilst facts have been ignored, any cock-and-bull story which the faddists have brought forward has been accepted and acted upon.

## SPORT JOTTINGS.

Some of the "star" turns were missing from Manchester when Guy Crusader, and other Manton horses were not sent to the meeting.

Laurel, who was expected absent from the Baldydey Derby on Whit Tuesday. She is being specially reserved for the Oaks at Newmarket.

The big blind New Zealanders.

The bright New Zealanders.